

Amendments To The Specification:

In the Specification, please add the section headings and paragraphs between paragraph [0010] and paragraph [0011], as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above mentioned and other concepts of the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings of the exemplary and preferred embodiments of the present invention. The illustrated embodiments are intended to illustrate, but not to limit the invention. The drawings contain the following figures, in which like numbers refer to like parts throughout the description and drawings wherein:

- Figure 1 illustrates an exemplary schematic diagram according to one aspect of the present invention;
- Figure 2 illustrates an exemplary schematic diagram according to another aspect of the present invention; and
- Figure 3 illustrates an exemplary schematic diagram according to yet another aspect of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION--

In the Specification, please amend the paragraphs [0011]-[0017], as follows:

[0011] Essential to the invention is the idea that status information (particularly absence information) is produced and captured at a first terminal 12(a), said terminal being assigned to a first subscriber. This information 18 is then transferred to a switching node 14 of a telecommunication system and stored there. The switching node 14 then transfers the information 20(a) to a second terminal 12(b), which is assigned to a second subscriber, such that the absence information is then available at the second terminal 12(b). In this way the second subscriber has the status of the first subscriber ready at all times. It is advantageous not only to integrate these novel communication paradigms into future IP products, but also to provide this functionality in the existing product environment (IP convergence). This in turn ensures that the existing investment of the customer retains its value (investment protection).

[0012] In an advantageous embodiment of the claimed method, the second terminal 12(b) sends a request message 22 to the switching node 14. Following receipt of this request message 22, the switching node 14 sends the current absence information 20(b) relating to the first subscriber to the second terminal 12(b). In this way the information which is available at the second terminal 12(b) can be updated as required.

[0013] Alternatively, in a further appropriate embodiment, the second terminal 12(b) again sends the request message 22 to the switching node 14 but, after receiving the request message 22, the switching node 14 sends current absence information 20(c), about the first subscriber at specified time intervals 24. As a result, the information which is available at the second terminal 12(b) is regularly updated and renewed.

[0014] As a further alternative, the second terminal 12(b) again sends a request message 22 to the switching node 14 but, after receiving the request message 22, the switching node 14 only sends current absence information 20 about the first subscriber to the second terminal 12(b) in each case if said absence information has changed. In this way the information which is available at the second terminal 12(b) is only updated and renewed if a change has occurred. No data transmission takes place if the absence information remains the same, thereby allowing a reduction in the amount of data that must be transmitted.

[0015] In a further advantageous embodiment of the claimed method, said embodiment being particularly convenient for the user, the absence information about the first subscriber is automatically captured at the first terminal 12(a). The capture of the presence can take place in a simple way by establishing whether the terminal is switched on or off. Alternatively, the capture of the presence is conceivable inter alia by means of a sensor, e.g. a movement indicator at the workstation. Additionally, the vacation information can be made available to the switching node 14 by the personnel department.

[0016] The available absence information is usefully displayed on a display of the second terminal 12(b). This can be the display of a telecommunication terminal or telephone or a

monitor of a computer, for example, or the absence information can also take the form of a voice message (text-to-speech) if the second terminal 12(b) does not have a display, for example. For the representation provided by a telephone display having one or two lines, alphanumeric characters and standard symbols can be used. For the representation on a computer monitor, the information can be arranged more attractively using graphical means, small pictures and the like.

[0017] In an advantageous embodiment of the claimed method, the absence information about the first subscriber is stored 15 in the second terminal 12(b) or in a switching node 14 or in another suitable device. The information is therefore still available if something else has been displayed on the display in the meanwhile, e.g. the locally selected telephone number of a desired called party.

In the Specification, please amend the paragraph [0019] as follows:

[0019] In an appropriate embodiment, a plurality of first terminals send the relevant absence information 18 to the second terminal 12(b). In this way, a subscriber list which includes the corresponding first subscribers can be defined at the second terminal 12(b). The second subscriber can therefore specify a selection of other subscribers whose absence information said second subscriber wishes to have. Moreover, the first terminal 12(a) preferably sends the absence information to a plurality of second terminals 12(b).